

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method for processing command information transmitted via means for manipulating images by a user and means for forming sensors which detect forces and/or displacements which, as a result of the detected forces and/or displacements, generate command information, some of which forces and/or displacements may correspond to translation or zoom components, and others of which forces and/or displacements may correspond to rotation components, for movement to be conferred to a spatial representation of the image, comprising:

processing in a first operating mode the command information to modify the image by imparting thereto only movements of rotation in space; and

processing in a second operating mode the command information to modify the image by imparting thereto only movements of translation or a zoom effect.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1 comprising filtering the command information for the rotation and/or translation components corresponding to micro-movements.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein at least one rotation component and at least one translation component are combined and the combined component(s) thus obtained is (are) utilized as rotation component(s) in the first operating mode and as translation component(s) in the second operating mode.

4. The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein at least one rotation component and at least one translation component are combined and the combined component(s) thus obtained is (are) utilized as rotation component(s) in the first operating mode and as translation component(s) in the second operating mode.

5. The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein one combination used is a linear combination.

6. The method as claimed in claim 4 wherein one combination used is a linear combination.

7. The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein a comparison is used on the combined components to identify components that are negligible or small relative to the other components and as a result of the comparison the component(s) thus identified are replaced by a zero component.

8. The method as claimed in claim 5 wherein a comparison is used on the combined components to identify components that are negligible or small relative to the other components and as a result of the comparison the component(s) thus identified are replaced by a zero component.

9. The method as claimed in claim 7 wherein a combined component is replaced by a zero component when the component is less than a given ratio of at least one other component.

10. The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein a combined component is replaced by a zero component when the component is less than a given ratio of at least one other component.

11. The method as claimed in claim 9 wherein a combined component is replaced by a zero component when the component is less than half of at least one other component.

12. The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein a combined component is replaced by a zero component when the component is less than half of at least one other component.

13. The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein in the second operating mode, after filtering of the micro-movements, whether the zoom component is zero or not is detected and when the zoom component is not zero, the other components are replaced by zero components.

14. The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein in the second operating mode, after filtering of the micro-movements, whether the zoom component is zero or

not is detected and when the zoom component is not zero, the other components are replaced by zero components.

15. The method as claimed in claim 5 wherein in the second operating mode, after filtering of the micro-movements, whether the zoom component is zero or not is detected and when the zoom component is not zero, the other components are replaced by zero components.

16. The method as claimed in claim 7 wherein in the second operating mode, after filtering of the micro-movements, whether the zoom component is zero or not is detected and when the zoom component is not zero, the other components are replaced by zero components.

17. The method as claimed in claim 9 wherein in the second operating mode, after filtering of the micro-movements, whether the zoom component is zero or not is detected and when the zoom component is not zero, the other components are replaced by zero components.

18. The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein in the second operating mode, after filtering of the micro-movements, whether the zoom component is zero or not is detected and when the zoom component is not zero, the other components are replaced by zero components.

19. An assembly comprising:  
means for manipulating an image;  
at least one means for display of the image;  
means for processing which control the display on the means for display;  
means for linking enabling the means for manipulating to transmit command information to the means for processing;  
the means for manipulating comprising:  
a gripping element manipulated by a user;  
means for forming sensors which detect forces and/or displacements on the gripping element and generate, in terms of detected forces and/or displacements, command information, some corresponding to

translation or zoom components, and others to rotation components for movement to be conferred to a spatial representation of the image; the means for processing comprise means suitable for using the method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims.

20. An installation for viewing or displaying an image comprising an assembly as claimed in claim 19 wherein the means for manipulating being placed in a surgical theater and/or examination room.

21. An installation for viewing or displaying an image comprising an assembly as claimed in claim 19 wherein at least one means for display being placed in a surgical theater and/or examination room.

22. An installation for viewing or displaying an image comprising an assembly as claimed in claim 20 wherein at least one means for display being placed in a surgical theater and/or examination room.

23. An installation for viewing or displaying an image comprising an assembly as claimed in claim 19 wherein at least one means for display being placed in an room or facility other than a surgical theater and/or examination room.

24. An installation for viewing or displaying an image comprising an assembly as claimed in claim 20 wherein at least one means for display being placed in an room or facility other than a surgical theater and/or examination room.

25. An installation for viewing or displaying an image comprising an assembly as claimed in claim 21 wherein at least one means for display being placed in an room or facility other than a surgical theater and/or examination room.

26. An installation for viewing or displaying an image comprising an assembly as claimed in claim 19 wherein the means for processing being placed in room or facility other than a surgical theater and/or examination room.

27. An installation for viewing or displaying an image comprising an assembly as claimed in claim 19 wherein the means for processing being placed in room or facility other than a surgical theater and/or examination room.

28. An installation for viewing or displaying an image comprising an assembly as claimed in claim 19 wherein the means for processing being placed in room or facility other than a surgical theater and/or examination room.

29. An installation for viewing or displaying an image comprising an assembly as claimed in claim 19 wherein the means for processing being placed in room or facility other than a surgical theater and/or examination room.